

# Cedar and Wayne Counties Juvenile Services Comprehensive Plan 2009-2011

(January 1, 2009, through December 31, 2011)

## SECTION I

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**SECTION II  
COMMUNITY TEAM**

**Description of Team** and how formed, how long meeting, how often meet/met, structure, etc.

The Cedar County Coalition and the Wayne County Coalition meet once monthly in each county. These two coalitions were established in September, 2007, after the previous Project Coordinator at the Northeast Nebraska Public Health Department, and the Health Department itself, decided to abandon the Northeast Nebraska Juvenile Services Grant Program. Thus, the previous 2006-2008 Comprehensive Plan had been abandoned as well.

Out of necessity, Northeast Nebraska Juvenile Services Grant Program regrouped and readjusted focus. The two coalitions work in conjunction with Project Extra Mile, whose mission statement is, "To create a community consensus that clearly states that underage alcohol use is illegal, unhealthy and unacceptable." Our coalitions are taking Project Extra Mile's mission statement a step further, working toward prevention by reaching out to juveniles in Wayne and Cedar counties.

**List of team members/contributors with contact info** (title, address, phone numbers, email)

**A. Cedar County Coalition**

- **Coordinator, Steve Shear**, Project Extra Mile, 112 West 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Wayne, NE 68787, (402) 833-5441, [wayne@projectextramile.org](mailto:wayne@projectextramile.org)
- **Coalition Chairperson, Sally Opfer**, Cedar County Attorney's Office, P.O. Box 135, Hartington, NE 68739, (402) 254-7229, [sallyo@hartel.net](mailto:sallyo@hartel.net)
- **Member, Larry Koranda**, Cedar County Sheriff, P.O. Box 415, Hartington, NE 68739, (402) 254-6884, [sheriff@hartel.net](mailto:sheriff@hartel.net)
- **Member, Gary Kinney**, Deputy Cedar County Sheriff, P.O. Box 415, Hartington, NE 68739, (402) 254-6884, [glkinney@hartel.net](mailto:glkinney@hartel.net)
- **Member, Darby Weller**, Coleridge Chief of Police, P.O. Box 276, Coleridge, NE 68727, (402) 283-4464, [dweller@cjis.state.ne.us](mailto:dweller@cjis.state.ne.us)
- **Member, Casey Nieman**, Hartington Chief of Police, P.O. Box 155, Hartington, NE 68739, (402) 254-6777, [citypolice@hartel.net](mailto:citypolice@hartel.net)

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- **Member, Ryan VanCleave**, Laurel Chief of Police, P.O. Box 248, Laurel, NE 68745, (402) 256-3211, [laurelcpd@huntel.net](mailto:laurelcpd@huntel.net)
- **Member, Eric Kloster**, Trooper, Nebraska State Patrol, 1401 Eisenhower, Norfolk, NE 68701, (402) 370-3456, [eric.kloster@nebraska.gov](mailto:eric.kloster@nebraska.gov)
- **Member, Chris Bernard**, Cedar Catholic High School Principal, Hartington, NE 68739, (402) 254-3906, [cbernard@esul.org](mailto:cbernard@esul.org)
- **Member, Russ Flamig**, Hartington Public High School Principal, P.O. Box 75, Hartington, NE 68739, (402) 254-3947, [rflamig@esul.org](mailto:rflamig@esul.org)
- **Member, Pastor Bob Bryan**, Trinity Lutheran Church, P.O. Box 156, Hartington, NE 68739, (402) 254-6606, [trinitylutheran@hartel.net](mailto:trinitylutheran@hartel.net)
- **Member, Deanna Anderson**, Cedar County News Reporter, P.O. Box 977, Hartington, NE 68739, (402) 254-3997
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- **Member, Carol Craig**, Hartington Public Librarian, P.O. Box 458, Hartington, NE 68739, (402) 254-6245, [tandecraig@hartel.net](mailto:tandecraig@hartel.net)
- **Member, Miranda Becker**, Haven House representative, P.O. Box 482, Hartington, NE 68739, (402) 254-2553, [havenhouse@hartel.net](mailto:havenhouse@hartel.net)
- **Member, Kathie Dresden**, Medical Clinic representative, P.O. Box 937, Hartington, NE 68739, (402) 254-3935, [ksteffen@shhservices.com](mailto:ksteffen@shhservices.com)
- **Member, Bill Yates**, Mayor of Hartington, P.O. Box 427, Hartington, NE 68739, (402) 254-6353, [cityclerk@hartel.net](mailto:cityclerk@hartel.net)

**B. Wayne County Coalition**

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- **Member, Jason Mrsny**, Wayne State College Security, Wayne, NE 68787, (402) 375-7216, [jamrsny1@wsc.edu](mailto:jamrsny1@wsc.edu)
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- **Member, Jill Belt**, Providence Medical Center, Wayne, NE 68787, (402) 375-3800, [jbelt@providencemedical.com](mailto:jbelt@providencemedical.com)
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## **Section III**

### **Juvenile Justice System Analysis Tool**

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A meeting was held in Cedar County to go over the comprehensive planning process in conjunction with the county's Project Extra Mile Cedar County Coalition meeting. Those present included local representatives from the Cedar County Board of Commissioners, Hartington Cedar Catholic High School, the Laurel Police Department, the Coleridge Police Department, the Cedar County Sheriff's Office, Project Extra Mile, the Junction Youth Center in Hartington, and the Cedar County Attorney's Office.

The coalitions in both Cedar and Wayne Counties have been meeting monthly since September of 2007. Issues have been discussed in the past pertaining to most of the decision point analysis previously reported in 2006's Comprehensive Plan.

**Summary from the Juvenile Justice System Analysis:**

Because of the time constraints, the group did not go through the entire Juvenile Justice System Analysis Tool by decision point. According to the County Attorney's Office, the formal and informal determining factors under each decision point remain the same as those presented three years ago with minor changes. Such decision point analysis from three years ago is added to Appendix A, and those minor changes will be **emboldened, underlined and italicized.**

## **Section IV**

### **Community Socio-Economics**

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The socio-economics of Cedar and Wayne Counties presented here are taken from information at the U.S. Census website, as well as from the Nebraska Department of Economic Development (LOIS – Location One Information System):

Main Transportation Routes through Cedar and Wayne Counties:

- U.S. Highway 81 runs north and south through the western third of Cedar County
- U.S. Highway 20 runs west and east through the southern third of Cedar County
- State Highway 15 runs north and south through Cedar and Wayne Counties
- State Highway 12 runs west and east through the northern third of Cedar County
- State Highway 35 zigzags from the southwest corner of Wayne County through east-central Wayne County
- Other Secondary State Highways in Cedar County are Highways 121, 14A, 14B, 14C, 14H, 57 and 84
- Other Secondary State Highways in Wayne County are Highways 57, 98, 16, 90A and 90B

Main Economies Within the County:

In October, 2002, Cedar County had 4,891 in its civilian labor force. Seventy-four of those were unemployed, giving Cedar County an unemployment rate of 1.5%. In 2007, Wayne County had 5,585 in its civilian labor force. One-hundred sixty seven of those were unemployed, giving Wayne County an unemployment rate of 3%.

Cedar County's Employment by Industry in 2006 was as follows:

39.665%	Service
18.075%	Retail Trade
13.724%	Manufacturing
7.364%	Construction
6.165%	Transportation & Public Utilities
5.720%	Wholesale Trade
5.328%	Finance, Insurance and Real Estate
3.961%	Government

Wayne County's Employment by Industry in 2006 was as follows:

43.534%	Service
19.784%	Retail Trade
13.792%	Manufacturing
6.015%	Construction
5.177%	Wholesale Trade



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4.384%	Transportation & Public Utilities
4.032%	Finance, Insurance & Real Estate
3.283%	Government

<u>Population (2006 Estimates):</u>	Cedar County:	8,819
	Wayne County:	9,196
	Total	18,015

Race/Ethnic Makeup of the Counties (2006 Estimates, Counties Combined):

17,660 or 98% were White  
110 or .6% were Black  
72 or .4% were American Indian/Alaska Native  
83 or .5% were Asian  
90 or .5% were of two or more races  
17,012 or 96.3% of the White persons reported weren't Latino/Hispanic

Age Breakdown Within Counties:

	Cedar	Wayne
Persons 0 - 4	503	469
Persons 5 - 17	2,266	1,738
Persons 18 - 64	4,286	5,711
Persons 65 and Older	1,764	1,278

Educational Opportunities:

Cedar County has 6 high schools and no colleges.

Wayne County has 2 high schools and one college (4 year college).

Historic and Natural Attractions that Affect the Counties:

Cedar County has a Municipal Airport, several boat docks aligning the Missouri River, Highway 12 is considered the "Outlaw Trail Scenic Bypass," a settlement site of Lewis and Clark, the Wiseman Monument, two Wildlife Management Areas with lakes (Buckskin Lake and Chalkrock Lake) and railroad service in south central cedar county.

Wayne County has a Municipal Airport, hospital, and National Guard Armory.

## **Section V**

### **Identified Priority Areas**

## **PRIORITY AREAS**

**Priority #1: Increase youth activities, programs and service opportunities for juveniles cross-funded through multiple sources and partners to assure sustainability; assuring that youth are key decision makers through a youth leadership council.**

The rural nature of Cedar and Wayne Counties in Northeast Nebraska means that there are limited locally available resources for youth and families. The number of youth ages 8 through 12 who have increased contacts with law enforcement is seen as directly related to the lack of community resources which promote protective factors. Placing priority on addressing the issues of “not having anything to do” and the inclusion of youth in leadership is seen to have the longest running cost and community benefit.

In Cedar and Wayne Counties, there are limited activities which juveniles can participate outside of school. Most of those activities are sports oriented, and some include 4-H and church youth groups. These groups do not attract a broad base of youth. Those who participate are often engaged in multiple activities. However, there are youth who are not engaged, or who despite participating, engage in at-risk behaviors in their free time. Further, there are not community-wide, inclusive resources such as after school programs, dances or events on weekends other than school sports. As a result, there are youth who have blocks of time in which to engage in anti-social behaviors.

Alcohol use is central to many antisocial behaviors among juveniles, which is reflective of the community norms and attitudes. Adults model use of alcohol for celebrations and leisure time. There is acceptance of use of alcohol among youth as part of rural community life. Additionally, youth risk involves having friends who engage in problem behaviors, and availability of drugs and alcohol. Another barrier to youth participating in activities is the availability of transportation to take youth to the activities. A youth may want to participate, but does not have the parental or community support to attend such activity.

At this time, there is no set way to identify those youth at risk between the ages of 8-12 years. Many times, law enforcement will encounter such youth, however, if the untoward behavior/activity they are presenting does not rise to the level of a juvenile petition filing, the law enforcement officer, most times, will not file a report with the prosecutor's office.

A few years ago, a group of youth from Hartington, Cedar County, Nebraska, took it upon themselves to start a group. These youth, under supervision of parents, raised money to put on events like pizza nights, game nights, movie nights, and dances. When money came in, they needed to formally form an organization. These youth, under adult supervision, called their organization “Junction Youth Center.” The Junction Youth

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Center is a non-profit organization under the umbrella of the Hartington Community Foundation and has 501(c)(3) non-profit classification. A parent holds the money, however, all events presented to the community are decided upon a board of youth. For a time, there were events happening monthly. These events have dropped off sharply due to a lack of finding adults to be present during the events for supervision. There is still money available with the Junction Youth Center to hold events for youth, and they are looking for adult assistance to provide supervision. At the time of this writing, the Junction Youth Center is on hold looking for adult support.

Our coalitions have started youth groups in both Cedar and Wayne Counties. Project Extra Mile is coordinating these youth groups which meet monthly.

**Priority #2: Our coalition finds that getting alcohol out of the hands of our youth to be a significant priority.**

One way is to build positive peer groups through the creation and implementation of activities outlined hereinabove in Priority #1. Our coalition is working closely with Project Extra Mile, whose mission is *to create a community consensus that clearly states that underage alcohol use is illegal, unhealthy and unacceptable*. We consider Project Extra Mile to be a partner assisting us in the progress of our priorities. Project Extra Mile has collaborated with law enforcement agencies across the State of Nebraska and has partnered extensively with eight Omaha metro area agencies to coordinate alcohol compliance checks of retail establishments since 1997, with the percentage of businesses selling to minors falling from 41% to less than 10%. Cedar and Wayne counties less persons per alcohol license than the average for the State of Nebraska, as follows:

Nebraska 2006 Population estimate:	1,768,331	All Ages
Divided by the number of liquor licenses issued		
By the Nebraska Liquor Control Commission 2008:	5,410	Licenses
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Equals 1 liquor license per 327 citizens of any age		

Cedar/Wayne Counties 2006 Population estimate:	18,015	All Ages
Divided by the number of liquor licenses issued		
By the Nebraska Liquor Control Commission 2008:	67	Licenses
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Equals 1 liquor license per 269 citizens of any age		

There are more alcohol licenses per person in Cedar and Wayne Counties compared to the whole of the State of Nebraska. With Cedar and Wayne Counties being rural areas with limited youth-involved activities, our youth will turn to alcohol. The vast organization of Project Extra Mile and their involvement in communities and “policing”

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establishments that sell alcoholic liquor, will be instrumental in helping keep alcohol out of our youth's hands.

**Priority #3: Enhance and maintain collaborative infrastructure development.**

The success of the Northeast Nebraska Juvenile Services Program, which covers Cedar and Wayne Counties, and their respective coalitions, depends upon strong collaborative planning and implementation efforts among diverse partners.

Our coalitions need to develop relationships with other community groups in addition to the youth groups mentioned in Priority #1. Successful development of our prevention infrastructure requires both strong local and county leadership, and coalitions to collaborate. Each county has differing levels of community support. Our coalitions' success depends upon city and county government leaders, law enforcement, medical community, school administrators, business leaders, clergy and other local leaders, as well as youth leaders. For our coalitions to survive, we must work to assist each others' prevention efforts as follows:

1. Community participation and agreement.
2. Openness of coalition participants to identify at-risk youth.
3. Locally available training for coalition participants.
4. Growth in coalition member numbers by identifying and enlisting future community members.
5. Presentations to 8<sup>th</sup> grade students in Cedar and Wayne Counties to enlist future youth group members and additional localized youth groups.

## **Section VI**

### **Strategies**

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**VI. STRATEGIES**

**Priority #1:** Increase youth activities, programs and service opportunities for juveniles cross-funded through multiple sources and partners to assure sustainability; assuring that youth are key decision makers through a youth leadership council.

<b>Strategies</b>	<b>Stakeholders</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Resources</b>	<b>Expected Results</b>
Develop open, inclusive local county youth leadership teams	Project Extra Mile, Cedar and Wayne County Coalitions, and Junction Youth Center	Within 6 months	Monetary and Volunteer support from Stakeholders	Youth who provide leadership and coordination of youth events
Develop at-risk youth identification through database	Coalition members including Law Enforcement, Clergy, Schools and Youth Leaders	On-going	Clerical support from law enforcement officers and schools to identify those youth at-risk	Identify at-risk youth and involve them in youth group event planning and execution
Get at-risk youth to participate in events	Coalitions, Youth Groups and Junction Youth Center	On-going	Adults volunteer rides for at-risk children who want to participate but lack transportation	At-risk children attending youth-planned events
Re-energize the Junction Youth Center	Coalitions, Project Extra Mile and Junction Youth Center	Within 6 months	Adult volunteers to supervise events	Monthly youth-planned and executed events
Youth Group expansion and cooperation	Cedar County Coalition, Project Extra Mile and Junction Youth Center	On-going	Coalition Member Volunteers, Youth Group members, and Junction Youth Center Board (comprised of youth)	Coordinated efforts between Project Extra Mile's youth group and the Junction Youth Center, to support one another but remain separate entities

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**Priority #2:** Our coalition finds that getting alcohol out of the hands of our youth to be a significant priority.

Strategies	Stakeholders	Timeline	Resources	Expected Results
Change community perception of alcohol use for celebrations, etc.	Project Extra Mile, and Cedar and Wayne County Coalitions	On-going	Project Extra Mile administrative staff support in body and materials, media, and Cedar and Wayne County Coalitions	Parents reconsidering appropriateness of alcohol served at First Communion, Confirmation, and Graduation celebrations. Groups planning fund-raising events reconsidering appropriateness of alcohol being served where youth are present; and if alcohol MUST be served, provide servers with training.
Ensure that liquor license holders remain compliant with Nebraska law concerning the sale of alcoholic liquor	Coalitions, Law Enforcement Officers and Project Extra Mile	On-going	Project Extra Mile Staff, Law Enforcement Officers, youth participation and attendance at training for compliance checks	Perform regular compliance checks at Cedar and Wayne County liquor sale establishments to ensure that these establishments are not selling alcoholic liquor to minors and are remaining compliant with Nebraska law concerning the sale of alcoholic liquor

**Priority #3:** Enhance and maintain collaborative infrastructure development.

Strategies	Stakeholders	Timeline	Resources	Expected Results
Community participation and agreement	Project Extra Mile, and Cedar and Wayne County Coalitions	On-going	Volunteer support from stakeholders	On-going relationships within the communities by reaching out to other community groups
Openness of coalition	Project Extra Mile and Cedar	Within 6 months	Clerical support from	A working database to identify at-risk



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participants to identify at-risk youth	and Wayne County Coalitions		Project Coordinator, law enforcement officers and schools to identify those youth at-risk	youth through law enforcement contacts, and school and clergy contacts
Locally available training for coalition participants	Project Extra Mile and Cedar and Wayne County Coalitions	On-going	Project Extra Mile staff, speakers at monthly meetings to address relevant issues, training for law enforcement officers on compliance checks	Members will become more knowledgeable and confident about expressing issues to others, and law enforcement officers will become more knowledgeable regarding liquor license laws and compliance checks
Growth in coalition member numbers by identifying and enlisting future community members	Cedar and Wayne County Coalitions	On-going	Coalition members	New members joining in monthly coalition meetings and offering volunteer work as needed
Presentations to 8 <sup>th</sup> grade students in Cedar and Wayne Counties to enlist future youth group members and additional localized youth groups	Project Extra Mile, Cedar and Wayne County Coalitions, existing youth groups and Junction Youth Center	On-going	Project Extra Mile staff	Youth attending presentations will join our youth groups and form more localized youth groups in their communities. Currently we have a Cedar County Youth Group and a Wayne County Youth Group. Goal is various city youth groups within the counties

## **Appendix A**

### **Community Planning Tool**

**CEDAR & WAYNE COUNTIES**

**JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM ANALYSIS**

**(COMMUNITY PLANNING DECISION POINT ANALYSIS)**

The Juvenile Justice System Analysis Tool (Tool) was developed by the Juvenile Justice Institute at the University of Nebraska at Omaha in conjunction with the Nebraska Crime Commission to assist in County Juvenile Services Comprehensive Planning.

The Tool consists of twelve areas of decision points that make up the formal juvenile justice system in Nebraska. Various factors are present at each decision point—oftentimes changing from year to year based on state or county dynamics within the system such as changes in policies, programs, and/or personnel.

There are formal factors dictating certain decision points in the system, such as statutory authority. In addition, each county or community has unique factors surrounding certain decision points within the local county juvenile justice system. Identifying such informal factors helps to understand and assess juvenile justice needs and issues in individual locales.

Available data might also inform the factors surrounding a data point. Anecdotal data might be compared with statistical data, for example, to assess the true state of the system. County data is assessed when applying the Tool where applicable.

**Cedar & Wayne County**

A meeting was held in Cedar County to go over the comprehensive planning process in conjunction with the county's Project Extra Mile Cedar County Coalition meeting. Those present included local representatives from the Cedar County Board of Commissioners, Hartington Cedar Catholic High School, the Laurel Police Department, the Coleridge Police Department, the Cedar County Sheriff's Office, Project Extra Mile, the Junction Youth Center in Hartington, and the Cedar County Attorney's Office.

An assessment of the Cedar County data has been completed as part of applying the Tool. Such data is referenced throughout this report when necessary to fully analyze a certain decision point.

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**NEBRASKA JUVENILE COURT REPORT - CEDAR COUNTY  
(Nebraska Crime Commission)**

	2005	2006	2007
<b>ARRESTS</b>	2	17	4
<b>OFFENSES</b>			
1st/2nd Degree Assault	0	0	0
3rd Degree Assault	1	0	0
Sexual Assault - 1st	0	0	0
Sexual Assault - 2nd	0	0	0
Burglary	0	0	0
Drug - Felony	0	0	0
Theft > \$1500	0	0	0
Theft < \$1500	0	0	0
Theft < \$500	0	0	1
Theft < \$200	1	0	0
Crim Mischief - Felony	0	0	0
Crim Mischief - Misd	3	0	3
Major Trespass	0	0	0
Forgery - Misd - Major	0	0	0
Weapon - Misd	0	0	0
Disturbing Peace	1	0	0
Other Felony	0	0	0
Other Misdemeanor	5	2	1
Truancy	0	0	1
Ungovernable Behavior	0	0	2
Possession of Alcohol	4	4	3
Other Status	0	0	0
Neglect	7	1	5
Dependent	0	0	0
Other/Unknown	9	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>16</b>

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**NEBRASKA JUVENILE COURT REPORT - WAYNE COUNTY  
(Nebraska Crime Commission)**

	2005	2006	2007
<b>ARRESTS</b>	23	27	22
<b>OFFENSES</b>			
1st/2nd Degree Assault	0	0	0
3rd Degree Assault	0	3	0
Sexual Assault - 1st	0	0	0
Sexual Assault - 2nd	0	0	0
Robbery	0	1	0
Burglary	0	0	1
Drug - Felony	1	0	0
Theft > \$1500	0	0	0
Theft < \$1500	0	0	0
Theft < \$500	0	1	0
Theft < \$200	0	0	0
Crim Mischief - Felony	0	0	0
Crim Mischief - Misd	4	1	11
Major Trespass	0	0	0
Forgery - Misd - Major	0	0	0
Weapon - Misd	0	0	0
Disturbing Peace	0	0	0
Other Felony	1	1	0
Other Misdemeanor	2	0	6
Truancy	0	0	1
Ungovernable Behavior	0	0	3
Possession of Alcohol	0	1	1
Other Status	0	0	0
Neglect	5	0	5
Dependent	0	2	0
Other/Unknown	1	1	2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>30</b>

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**NEBRASKA JUVENILE COURT REPORT - CEDAR & WAYNE COUNTIES**

	2005	2006	2007
<b>ARRESTS</b>	25	44	26
<b>OFFENSES</b>			
1st/2nd Degree Assault	0	0	0
3rd Degree Assault	1	3	0
Sexual Assault - 1st	0	0	0
Sexual Assault - 2nd	0	0	0
Robbery	0	1	0
Burglary	0	0	1
Drug - Felony	1	0	0
Theft > \$1500	0	0	0
Theft < \$1500	0	0	0
Theft < \$500	0	1	1
Theft < \$200	1	0	0
Crim Mischief - Felony	0	0	0
Crim Mischief - Misd	7	1	14
Major Trespass	0	0	0
Forgery - Misd - Major	0	0	0
Weapon - Misd	0	0	0
Disturbing Peace	1	0	0
Other Felony	1	1	0
Other Misdemeanor	7	2	7
Truancy	0	0	2
Ungovernable Behavior	0	0	5
Possession of Alcohol	4	5	4
Other Status	0	0	0
Neglect	12	1	10
Dependent	0	2	0
Other/Unknown	10	1	2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>46</b>

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**Cedar & Wayne County Data**

Juvenile court offense data for each of Cedar County and for Wayne County (separately and combined) is provided for years 2005, 2006, and 2007 (Juvenile Court Reporting—Nebraska Crime Commission)<sup>1</sup>. Arrest numbers for each year represent arrests made of 0 – 17 year-olds in each of the counties.

In 2007, according to OJJDP at <http://www.ojjdp.ncjrs.gov/ojstatbb/exapop/>, Cedar County had a juvenile population (ages 0 – 17 years old) of 2,074, with 2,056 white, 9 black, 6 American Indian, and 3 Asian. In addition, 27 were identified as Hispanic and 2,047 Non-Hispanic. Wayne County had a juvenile population (ages 0 – 17 years old) of 1,752 with 1,688 white, 34 black, 11 American Indian, and 19 Asian. 105 were identified as Hispanic and 1,752 as Non-Hispanic.

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**Juvenile Court Reporting (JCR)**

The Nebraska Crime Commission's Statistical Analysis Center (SAC) collects information from the courts on juveniles processed through the juvenile justice system. Approximately 8,000 juvenile cases a year receive final disposition or judgment which are reported to the Crime Commission by paper forms and by the computerized court system JUSTICE. Various statistics are compiled from these data by the SAC for use in juvenile justice planning. Data are provided back to local and state agencies, policy makers, the courts, [National Center for Juvenile Justice](#) and federal [Bureau of Justice Statistics](#).

**Nebraska Juvenile Court Data Set**

Juvenile court information has been submitted to the Crime Commission on an ongoing basis for over 20 years. When a case reaches a disposition, meaning finality with concern to the court proceedings, a data collection form is completed and forwarded to the Crime Commission. The reported information is collected within the county court or by the probation office. There data typically include cases which have been handled with a formal petition having been filed. The statistics reported here by the Crime Commission only contain information on cases handled through a formal petition. The terms, cases, petitions and referrals may all be used describe the same group of juveniles processed. This does not necessarily represent all cases filed in juvenile court during those times; rather only those that received final a disposition or judgment. Information on pending cases is not included.

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**Prevention Programs:**

Cedar County has many prevention activities for youth, primarily through the schools. Programs include various extra-curricular activities such as FFA, FCCLA, and Sports. Other programs include Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and church youth groups, among others.

The Project Extra Mile Cedar County Coalition and Wayne County Coalition are very active groups. Project Extra Mile's mission statement is "To create a community consensus that clearly states that underage alcohol use is illegal, unhealthy, and unacceptable."

The Junction Youth Center in Hartington is a place where youth may spend their time outside of school and school-related activities. The officers of the center are local high school students. Other communities in the area are looking to the Junction Youth Center as a model program to establish in their own areas.

**Summary:**

Because of the time constraints, the group did not go through the entire Juvenile Justice System Analysis Tool by decision point. According to the County Attorney's Office, the formal and informal determining factors under each decision point remain the same. It was noted that if a child is wayward, disobedient or uncontrolled by parents, then a juvenile court petition would be filed. If the child is not wayward, disobedient or uncontrolled by parents, law enforcement files a written report to the County Attorney's Office to reference any subsequent delinquent acts.

Wayne and Cedar Counties have contracted with Project Extra Mile for alcohol prevention efforts including regular contact with juveniles and adults.

It is highly recommended that Cedar and Wayne Counties undertake a true juvenile system analysis in the next 12 months to update their Comprehensive Plan, to determine the gaps needed to be filled to make a seamless continuum of services for juveniles, and to make sure resources are being utilized in the most effective and efficient way possible.

The Junction Youth Center is a progressive community approach to providing something outside of school and extra-curricular activities for kids to do in Hartington.



*Appendix A from the 2006 Comprehensive plan involving Wayne, Cedar and Dixon Counties. This attachment contains ONLY the Decision Point Analysis from the 2006 Plan Appendix A.*

## Decision Point Analysis

System Decision Point: Arrest/Citation: Police/Law Enforcement

**Decision:** Whether an information report should be filed, or what offense, if any, with which juvenile should be cited or arrested

Formal Determining

- Sufficient factual basis to believe offense committed
- Underlying support for a particular offense

Informal Determining Factors

- Youth's prior incidences with law enforcement
- Juveniles have tendency to "stick nose up at law enforcement"

**Decision:** Whether to cite or arrest juvenile for juvenile or adult

Formal Determining

- Seriousness of offense
- Age

Informal Determining Factors

- Degree to which juvenile cooperates with officer
- Victim's desire
- If under 16 will cite/arrest juvenile, 17 years old depend on the offense

**Decision:** Whether to take juvenile into custody or to cite and release (NRS § 43-248(1), (2); § 43-250(1), (2), (3))

Formal Determining

- As stated in statute

Informal Determining Factors

- Immediate risk to juvenile
- Immediate/short term risk to public
- Seriousness of perceived offense
- Extent to which parent or other responsible adult available to take responsibility for juvenile

**Problem:** Law enforcement has limited options for juveniles under the age of

**Solution:** ~~Develop pre-teen diversion curriculum that will be an early intervention piece.~~ Develop alcohol prevention program and law enforcement procedures for children involving parents. If child is wayward, disobedient or

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*uncontrolled by parents, law enforcement files a written report to the County Attorney for reference upon any future delinquent acts.*

**Problem:** Limited detention options constrain officer's range of response options for juveniles of all ages

**Solution:** Research other alternatives for detention in the community (i.e. nursing homes, hospitals)

**Problem:** No intermediate facilities in county to detain.

**Solution:** Develop shelter or staff secure options in the local area

**Comments:**

~~In 2004, the three county area of Wayne, Dixon, and Cedar counties had 66 juvenile arrests. This is based on the number of arrests according to the UCR (Uniform Crime Report) report. With an average of 5 arrests a month for three counties, it would appear that the juvenile delinquency problem in this area is minimal. However, a main concern is the number of undocumented law enforcement contacts officers have with younger offenders. Law enforcement officers frequently have repeated contacts with youth under the age of 13 who have committed nuisance level violations which do not merit a ticket or arrest. Except for their ability to talk with these youth, the officers have few options for this age range.~~

**System Decision Point: Initial Detention: State of Nebraska Probation**

**Decision:** Whether juvenile should be detained or released

**Formal Determining**

- Risk assessment outcome
- Accessibility of placement options: parent's/guardians, emergency shelter, staff secure facility, secure detention facility

**Informal Determining Factors**

- Due the good relationship between law enforcement and probation officer the situations that are brought to the probation are only if the intentions are to detain
- If a secure detention is needed the county has no problem getting a juvenile into Madison detention center.
- The probation district has 17 counties in which they cover which makes it difficult to have options for all counties

**Problem:** No other detention options

**Solution:**

**Comments:**

~~In 2004, District #2 probation department detained 10 staff/secure detentions. Depending on what county the detention is occurring, the distance involved to get to secure detention facility may be at least a 2 hour drive for law enforcement. Probation feels, however, that~~

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they are not getting called unless it is a legitimate request. Law enforcement is doing a very good job of filtering out the cases before probation is notified.

**System Decision Point: Charge Juvenile: County Attorney**

**Decision:** Whether to prosecute juvenile

Formal Determining  
- Likelihood of successful  
- Factors under NRS § 43-276

Informal Determining Factors  
- No diversion program for any of the counties. Madison county used to have an informal MIP diversion program, but that is no longer being utilized

**Decision:** Whether youth should be prosecuted as juvenile or adult

Formal Determining  
- Seriousness of offense

Informal Determining Factors  
- If is a serious felony, close to age 18, or amount of damage committed during the crime

**Decision:** Offense for which juvenile should be charged

Formal Determining

Informal Determining Factors  
- None identified

**Problem:** Due to all of the County Attorneys being part time, they do not have the administrative time to supervise an informal diversion program

**Solution:** Develop a diversion program for the multi-county area. *Wayne and Cedar County have contracted with Project Extra Mile for alcohol prevention efforts including regular contact with juveniles and adults. The "Coalitions" include Project Extra Mile staff, Law Enforcement and Community Leaders in the Government, Clergy and Education areas.*

**Comments:**

In 2004, according the Nebraska Crime Commission crime reports, the tri-county area had 67 petitions filed in juvenile court. Due to the County Attorneys in the respective counties filing adult charges on juveniles over the age of 16 with the responsibility of juvenile to request the transfer hearing, the number of juvenile filings are lower than those that are filed adult. The point of interest remains the younger offenders that are contacted by law enforcement, but no formal charges are brought about because of the lack of resources for this age range.

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**System Decision Point: Pre-adjudication detention: Juvenile Court Judge**

**Decision:** Whether juvenile detained at the time of citation/arrest should continue in detention or out-of-home placement pending adjudication

**Formal Determining**

- Whether there is an "immediate and urgent necessity for the protection of such juvenile"
- Whether there is an "immediate and urgent necessity for the protection of . . . the person or property of
- Whether the juvenile is likely to flee the jurisdiction of the court

**Informal Determining Factors**

- Availability of options, including: parents/guardians, other relatives/friends, secure detention
- Electronic monitoring not utilized because of lack of possible cases to be considered
- Most cases are sent home after detention hearing because of cooperation of parents and juveniles

**Problem:** Lack of detention options

**Solution:** Utilize already available facilities i.e. nursing homes or hospitals

~~Comments: With a cost of \$300.00 a day for placement at the Madison County detention center, the county does not use secure detention on a regular basis, more or less, continue detention past the initial detention hearing. The seriousness of crime will greatly impact the decision of the court to continued secure detention or release the juvenile home.~~

**System Decision Point: Probable Cause Hearing: Juvenile Court Judge**

**Decision:** Whether State can show that probable cause exists that juvenile is within the jurisdiction of the court

**Formal Determining**

- As stated in statute

**Informal Determining Factors**

- None discussed

**Problem:** No problems were identified at this time

**Solution:**

~~Comments: No comments for this section~~

**System Decision Point: Competency Evaluation: Juvenile Court Judge**

**Decision:** Whether juvenile is competent to participate in the proceedings

**Formal Determining**

**Informal Determining Factors**

- Judge does not use pre or postadjudication.

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**Decision:** Whether juvenile is "responsible" for his/her acts

Formal Determining

- "Complete evaluation of the juvenile including any authorized area of inquiry requested by the court."
- Opinion of physician, surgeon, psychiatrist, community mental health program, psychologist

Informal Determining Factors

- None reported

**Problem:** No problems were identified at this time

**Solution:**

~~Comments:~~

~~No comments for this section~~

System Decision Point: Adjudication: Juvenile Court Judge

**Decision:** Whether the juvenile is, beyond a reasonable doubt, "a person described by § 43-247"

Formal Determining

- Legal sufficiency of evidence presented during adjudication hearing
- Whether juvenile admits the allegations of the petition (or, "pleads to the charges")
- Residency
- Age

Informal Determining Factors

- County Attorney is not dismissing many cases. Most delinquent juveniles are getting adjudicated

**Decision:** Whether to order probation to conduct a pre-disposition investigation (statutory authority unclear--see also: § 29-2261(2))

Formal Determining

Informal Determining Factors

- Most cases in Wayne and Cedar counties are disposed of without PDI's being completed

**Decision:** Whether to order OJS evaluation

Formal Determining

- NRS § 29-2204 (3): "Prior to making a disposition which commits the juvenile to the Office of Juvenile Services, the court shall order the

Informal Determining Factors

- Judge is using mostly if a YRTC placement is wanted

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**System Decision Point: Modification/Revocation of Probation: Juvenile  
Court Judge**

**Decision:** Whether to modify or revoke probation

Formal Determining  
- As outlined in statute

Informal Determining Factors  
- The judge will revoke probation in  
addition to doing an administrative  
modification

Comments:

~~No comments for this section~~

**System Decision Point: Setting Aside Adjudication: Juvenile Court Judge**

**Decision:** Whether juvenile has satisfactorily completed his or her probation and supervision or the treatment program of his or her commitment

Formal Determining  
- Juvenile's post-adjudication  
behavior and response to treatment  
and rehabilitation programs  
- Whether setting aside adjudication  
will depreciate seriousness of  
juvenile's conduct or promote  
disrespect for the law  
- Whether failure to set aside  
adjudication may result in  
disabilities disproportionate to the  
conduct upon which the  
adjudication was based

Informal Determining Factors  
- The judge does not set aside any  
adjudications in this area  
- A form goes to the judge from the  
probation officer to have the court  
sign off on the satisfactory  
completion of probation  
- If an unsatisfactory probation order is  
wanted by probation a formal hearing  
is held

**Decision:** Whether juvenile should be discharged from custody and supervision of OJS

Formal Determining  
- Presumably same as those for  
probation

Informal Determining Factors  
- OJS is discharging according to their  
apparent authority

**Problem:** No problems were identified at this time

**Solution:**

Comments:

~~No comments for this section~~